

## God's love.

Oh, who can measure God's great love,  
'Tis boundless as the sea;  
It reaches every state and clime,  
It comes to you and me.

Psalm cxv : 8, 9; Micah vii : 18, 19.

His love is not like human love,  
A fair exchange of grace;  
But while we were his enemies,  
And scorned to seek his face,

Romans v : 7-10; 1 John iv : 18, 19.

He sent his only much loved Son,  
An off'ring full and free;  
That whoso'er believes may live,  
Oh, surely, that means me.

John iii : 16; 1 John iv : 14.

It is a tender, pitying love,  
The Father doth bestow;  
He sees the weakness of our frame,  
And all our griefs doth know.

Psal. ciii : 13, 14; 2 Cor. i : 3, 4.

Not one who ever came to him,  
Was empty turned away;  
No sin too dark, no stain too deep,  
No soul too far astray.

John vi : 37; Isaiah 1 : 3, 4.

Oh will you not accept God's love  
In Christ to us made known?  
He'll save you now from present sin,  
He'll for the past atone.

2 Cor. : 18, 19; 1 John iv : 9; Romans viii : 23, 15.

Who thus accepts, becomes God's Son,  
An heir with Christ, to all;  
Oh great and wondrous is such love!  
Which saves us from the fall.

1 John iii : 1, 2; Romans viii : 16, 18.

Oh, how I love Thee, blessed Lord,  
Do thou inspire my heart,  
To sing thy praises evermore,  
Nor from Thy laws depart.

Psalm cxvi : 1, 2; Psalm cxix : 33, 34.

—The Faithful Witness.

## Foundation Work.

A SERMON BY PASTOR C. H. SPURGEON.

'And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones to lay the foundation of the house.' 1 Kings 5 : 17.

Solomon began to build the temple at the foundation. You smile, and wonder how he could have begun anywhere else. Ah, dear friends! I wish common sense ruled people in religion as well as in building temples; for many brethren begin their building at the top. To baptize an unbeliever on the ground of a faith which does not yet exist, is laying the topstone before the foundation. To gather into church fellowship those who are not gathered to Christ, is attempting to pile on the roof before there are any walls. For any of you to make a profession of religion without being born again, is building the third story before there is any basement. How much we have in this world of

## HANGING UP HOUSES IN THE AIR.

I mean, making professions without having anything upon which to base them. Begin with the foundation. The foundation, in this case, had to be carried to a great height, because the area upon which the temple stood was on high above the valley. As there was not space enough on the mount, it was necessary to build up the depth of the valley scores of feet in perpendicular height, to form a foundation upon which their would be sufficient space for the temple and its surroundings. Portions of the massive masonry which formed the foundation of the enlarged area remain, to be wondered at. Solomon paid especial care to the foundation.

I. First, this is

## GOD'S METHOD.

Wherever you turn your eye upon the work of God, it is perfect. It will bear the keenest inspection. You may look at it from a distance with the telescope, or you may search into it with the microscope; but you shall find no imperfection. The Lord's work is perfect, not merely on the surface, but on its centre. If you cut deep, or if you pull it to pieces, dividing atom from atom, you shall see the wisdom of God in the minutest particle.

Observe the work of creation. God took care that even in the material universe there should be a grand foundation for His noble edifice. We

have the story of the fitting up of the world, during the seven days, for the habitation of man; but we have not the history of the creation of the earth before that time. To prepare for the seven days' rapid finishing of the earth for man, millions of years may have elapsed. The foundation was laid with great care. No limit can be set to the period preceding the making of man, if you only follow the Word of God in Genesis. 'In the beginning'—that was a long, long while ago—'God created the heaven and the earth;' and during that

## PROCESS OF CREATION

it went through a great many stages; for God was determined that the house in which man should dwell should be thoroughly furnished for him. I cannot conduct you to the foundations of the earth; but I do ask you to go down with me into the cellar. Look at the store of coals laid up in the deep places for us. God would not send His child here in winter-time, and put no coals in the cellar for him; but He took long ages to provide the world with that fuel which is necessary for a thousand useful purposes. God is the Master-builder, and He layeth the foundation well.

The same is true of God's work called Providence. No event happens but He has planned it, and ordained that a multitude of other events should precede or follow it. The doings of Providence are threaded together like pearls upon a string; there is a relation of this to that, and of that to another. Certain great principles underlie all history. One who had but little spiritual knowledge, yet confessed that 'there is power abroad which makes for righteousness;' he could not help seeing that; and he might have seen more had he opened his eyes. There is in the affairs of many a touch of God's own hand. History looks like a tangled skein; but when you and I shall see it disentangled, we shall wonder at the infinite wisdom and kindness and goodness of God.

But we come into clearer light when we look at THE LORD'S GREATEST WORK of redemption. You and I are not saved haphazard. It is not as though God had saved us on the spur of the moment, as an afterthought which was not His first intent. No; redemption plays an essential part in the purposes of the Lord. The foundation of redemption was securely laid in the covenant of grace, of which the Lord Jesus is the foundation. Infinite love, infallible wisdom, immutable faithfulness—all these combined to lay a foundation which can never be moved. Talk of the great stones and costly stones of Solomon's Temple, they are not worthy to be mentioned in the same day as this chief Corner-stone. He is the foundation of God, which standeth sure.

Once more: while illustrating the truth that God's method is to lay a good foundation, I must beg you to think of the application of redemption to the heart of every one of the redeemed in personal salvation. Beloved, when God saved us it was no superficial work; the building of His grace in our souls is no wooden shanty, but a building which hath foundations. When He wrought in your conviction of sin, what an out-digging there was! With some of us the throwing out of the foundation lasted for years; and for myself I began to think there never would be a trace of anything built up in my heart. What

## A TRENCH WAS DUG IN MY SOUL.

Out went my supposed merits! *What a heap of rubbish!* Out went my knowledge, my good resolves, and my self-sufficiency! By-and-by, out went all my strength. When this out-digging was completed, the ditch was so deep that, when I went down into it, it seemed like my grave. Since then we have been the subjects of a great deal of secret unseen, underground work. The Lord has spent upon us a world of care. My brother, you would not like to unveil those great searchings of the heart of which you have been the subject. You have been honored in public; and if so, you have had many a whipping behind the door lest you should glory in your flesh. When ever God has filled your boat with fish, and you have been more than ordinarily successful, that boat begins to sink. Great mercies are great humblers of sincere souls.

All those chastenings, humblings, and searchings of heart have been a private laying of founda-

tions for higher things. Ay, and the Lord has done much more than this in His own unseen but effectual way. He has given instruction and revelation, and sanctified fellowship, and these have been your own and not another's. No one has seen what the Lord has wrought in you; but if it had not been for this, you could not have been built up in holiness and usefulness. Thank God, He works the greater wonders of His Love in the dark, out of sight! Yet, as the foundation is the most important part of the building, so the secret, humbling process of grace have a value second to none.

II. I want you now to see that

## THIS MUST BE OUR METHOD.

First, let it be so in the building up of our own life. Every man and woman here, but especially those who are young, have a life to build up. It is a great thing to begin believing good solid doctrine. Some people have believed twenty different gospels in so many years; how many more they will believe before they get to their journey's end it would be difficult to predict. I thank God I knew but one gospel, and I have been so perfectly satisfied with it, that I do not want to know any other. Constant change of creed is sure loss. If a tree has to be taken up two or three times a year, you will not need to build a very large loft in which to store the apples. When people are always shifting their doctrinal principles, they are not likely to bring forth much fruit to the glory of God.

## ARTESIAN GRACE.

Beloved, how much is done in private by every Christian, who is really sanctified in the matter of the mastering of sin, it is not fit, in cases of inward conflict, to open the door or the window, and bid everybody come and see. If you have the wild beast of sin to tackle, shut the door and have it out alone, God helping you! You will never attain to a holy life unless there are secret conflicts with sin. There must also be hidden communings with God. That grace which is artesian is grace indeed. I pray God to deliver us from the present superficialities of religion. Unless men have new hearts and right spirits, it is all in vain that they make new professions. Be thorough, be real, be intense! In your building up of character, look well to the foundation.

So it must be, next, in the building up of a church. Is that a church of God which is not founded on everlasting truth? There are numbers of hasty builders with wood, hay and stubble; but these neither attend to foundation nor to material laid thereon. For my part, although I would be zealous in the service of my Lord, I had rather, by the grace of God, lay great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones upon the solid, rocky old doctrines of the gospel, than gather the greatest crowd without faith and life. The stones of the temple were so squared and polished that you could not get a knife in between them when they were placed side by side; the stones thus adjusted were like a solid, united mass. So let us build. 'Slow work,' say you. Yes, but it will be equally slow in coming down, and that is the thing we must care about: we build for eternity.

To maintain solid truth you need solid people. Vital goodness is therefore to be aimed at. Alas! much has been done of late to promote the production of dwarfish Christians. The endeavor has been to increase breadth at the expense of depth. I look with great delight, although with much sorrow, upon our society's

## CHURCH-BUILDING ON THE CONGO.

When we think of the many men who have died there; it has indeed been true already that 'great stones, costly stones and hewed stones have been laid for a foundation.' If God will enable His Church to make such sacrifices, He means to build a fair palace for His glory. When Christian men, for the truth's sake, can part with friends, lose popularity, and involve themselves in loss, then are 'great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones' being built into the foundation of the temple of the Lord.

This morning a large number of friends are present who have been attending the Sunday school Convention. I welcome them heartily, and